



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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This morning Department of Public Safety Sergeant John Shull, a 24 year veteran of the department, was on routine patrol in the area of the I-8 and the I-10 Junction south of Casa Grande, observed a white Ford Club van cross through the restricted the median and turn back W/B on I-10. Sergeant Shull followed the vehicle and observed the vehicle weaving in and out of the travel lane. Based on the erratic driving behavior displayed by the vehicle, a traffic stop was initiated by the DPS Sergeant.

The van continued down the highway for an additional mile before pulling over for the sergeant. As the sergeant approached the vehicle the driver attempted to flee the scene but was apprehended by the DPS officers. Upon a quick visual check of the vehicle the Sergeant observed several Mexican nationals jammed in the rear passenger compartment of the van. The passengers were packed so tight within the vehicle, many suffered muscle cramping from the tight conditions, which allegedly contributed to their inability to immediately flee. The youngest, a female passenger, was found on the floorboard with her legs stuck under the driver's seat.

A total of twenty-six undocumented aliens were found inside of the van. There were 24 adults and one 15 year-old female and one young male child, approximately 8-10 years of age. The vehicle was displaying an Arizona license plate that was determined by officers to be fictitious.

The driver, identified as a 24 year old Mexican national, will be facing federal charges and related state offenses for human smuggling. The undocumented aliens and the 1984 Ford Club van were turned over to Federal Agents of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the scene.

During 2005, Arizona Department of Public Safety Officers detained and turned over to U.S. Customs and Border Protection 4,017 individuals identified as undocumented aliens.